(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the export of marine products are badly slashed resulting in loss of huge amount of foreign exchange due to the war in Afghanistan; and

(f) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. A number of measures have been taken to boost exports which include reduction in export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special interest rate package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for a period of one year from October 2001, extension of normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports made to Latin American countries for a period of one year, upward revision of drawback rates, removal of value caps under the DEPB Scheme and extension of the export obligation period by six months.

(e) An accurate assessment of the impact of war in Afghanistan on our marine exports can be made only on receipt of export data for October and November, 2001. However, the September 11, 2001 incidents in USA have affected our marine product exports as is evident from the export data given below:

	September, 2001	September, 2000	% change
Quantity (in tonnes)	28548	33003	-13.5
Value (in Rs.Crores)	397.12	585.92	-32.2
Value (in US $ million)	82.73	128.92	-35.8

SOURCE: Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(f) MPEDA has been organising seminars in various centres in India to educate the exporters about the scope of increasing exports of marine products even during the current crisis period. Besides, market intelligence is collected through their trade promotion office in New York and disseminated to the trade from time to time.

Export of wheat and sugar

1541. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stock position of wheat and sugar for export to foreign countries;

(b) the details of quantity of wheat and sugar Government propose to export during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No separate stocks of wheat and sugar are maintained exclusively for export of wheat and sugar.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum and value of wheat and sugar that will be exported during the current financial year as the exports would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

(c) The export of sugar has been allowed freely without any quantitative ceiling with effect from 1.4.2001. The export of wheat is also allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by Directorate General of Foreign Trade and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). For the year 2001-02, an export ceiling of 5 million tonnes of wheat has been announced.

Further in order to boost the export of sugar, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

(ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance free sale release to be adjusted in the free sale stocks of the sugar factories after a period of 12 months, which has now been increased to 18 months.

(iii) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the F.O.B. value of export of sugar has been allowed.

Non-plan expenditure

1542. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the non-plan expenditure of Government during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which Government would be successful in reducing the non-plan expenditure during the current fiscal year; and